


# Memorandum



**Date:** April 9, 2012

**To:** Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

**From:** Carlos A. Gimenez  
Mayor 

**Subject:** South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center  
Status Report

RCA

Agenda Item No. 7(C)

Since its opening on October 1, 2011 the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center (SMDCAC) has hosted 35 events and seen approximately 23,000 people come through its doors. The Center continues to emphasize its goals of presenting artistically excellent work and developing strong community outreach components in everything that it does.

During the months of February and March the SMDCAC produced several very successful shows including: a near sold-out performance by Grammy Award-winning blues artists Keb' Mo'; a thrilling dance production by Evidence, A Dance Company; a jazz and spoken word Black History Month Celebration featuring the works of Langston Hughes performed by actor Malcolm-Jamal Warner and the Ron McCurdy Quartet; a flamenco and jazz fusion show in the intimate Black Box Theater; a performance by the legendary blues giant James Cotton and his "Superharp" band; and a dance performance of *The Radio Show* by the acclaimed contemporary dance company Abraham.In.Motion.

An intensive week of education and outreach events took place in February with Evidence, A Dance Company which included an inter-generational two-day workshop with senior citizens and the students at Mays Conservatory. Outreach also included dance master classes to several local area schools and a class for professional dancers at the SMDCAC (please see attached photos). The Langston Hughes show included workshops for students at Miami Dade College-Kendall Campus and Florida Memorial University. In the month of March, outreach activities also took place with local jazz and blues artists going into area schools to educate children about the art form in preparation for the James Cotton concert. The SMDCAC also held flamenco workshops with Girl Scout Troop 1896 and East Ridge Senior Center.

For the month of April the SMDCAC is presenting two outstanding shows. New Theatre features its latest production, *Property Line*, a comedy about the South Florida real estate market in the Center's intimate Black Box Theater (April 20-22). The show will feature shadow interpretation for the hearing impaired making the production accessible to audiences with and without disabilities. Shadow Interpreted Theater utilizes specially trained American Sign Language Interpreters (ASL) who perform as "shadows" during a live stage production alongside voiced actors. The SMDCAC also is presenting the Grammy Award-winning Turtle Island Quartet from San Francisco (April 21). Turtle Island, acclaimed for their fusion of jazz and classical music, performs the music of jazz legend John Coltrane from his revolutionary album *A Love Supreme*. In addition to its own presentations, the SMDCAC secured several rental performances for the month of April including productions by: Jamaica Awareness, *God's Way* (April 7); Miami Symphony Orchestra, *A Night At The Opera* (April 20); and Miami Civic Corale, *Hope, Esperanza, Espwa* (April 22).

For a complete listing of upcoming events, please visit the Center's website, [www.smdcac.org](http://www.smdcac.org)

Education and outreach events to the south Miami-Dade community are being scheduled surrounding the Turtle Island performances. Events will include a master class with the musicians at Southwood Middle School and other activities to be determined.

The SMDCAC also recently sponsored a collaboration between the acclaimed Garth Fagan Dance Company and local dance company Brazz Dance Theater. The Center hosted the setting of a famous contemporary piece called *From Before* from the Garth Fagan repertory on the dancers of Brazz. An informal showing of the dance took place on March 2 for local students and community members.

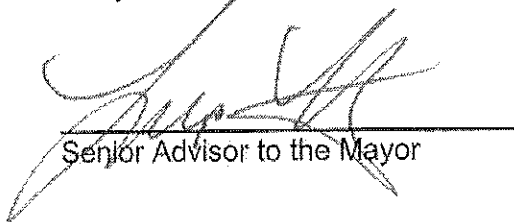
The SMDCAC also held a series of promising meetings with representatives of the Southland Mall and Macy's at Southland Mall to address parking access for SMDCAC patrons in the Mall lots. Preliminary work on a cross walk across SW 211 Street has also begun.

## **BACKGROUND**

The South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center is located on S.W. 211 Street in Cutler Bay and is a multidisciplinary arts center designed to showcase the performing arts. The design team was led by architectural and engineering firm Arquitectonica International, Inc, and also included: theater consultant Fisher Dachs Associates, Inc.; acoustical and sound and communications consultant Artec Consultants, Inc.; and arts management consultant AMS Planning & Research Corp.

The Center's 966-seat state-of-the-art Theater Building includes a fly tower, orchestra pit, front of house spaces (box office, lobby, restrooms, concessions, etc.), back of house support spaces (dressing rooms, storage and work areas, administrative offices, etc.) and a multi-purpose rehearsal space. The separate Activities Building of the Center houses an informal performance space, and smaller multi-purpose spaces for lectures, classes, or community gatherings. The Center's two buildings are joined by an outdoor promenade leading to a gently-sloping lawn for outdoor concerts and festivals along the Black Creek Canal.

Through Miami-Dade County's Art in Public Places Program, the Center has major public art works created by Miami artist Robert Chambers. An innovative light piece illuminates the translucent inner lobby wall with changing light designs created by computer-programmed LED fixtures. In addition, the lobby features two marble sculptures also created by Robert Chambers.

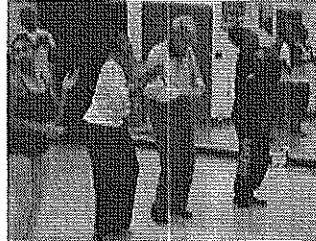


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Senior Advisor to the Mayor

**Evidence, A Dance Company  
South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center  
Community Outreach – February 2012**



Perrine and RR Moton Elem



Seniors and Students/Mays Conservatory



Perrine and RR Moton Elem



Mays Conservatory



Robert Morgan Education Center



Perrine and RR Moton Elem



Evidence Performance